



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

www.laccod.org



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Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Weller at 1:00 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, and the following Commissioners were present at the meeting: Kecia B. Weller, Bernard Siegel, Mary Chambers, Steven Thompson (Alternate member for Commissioner Wan Chun Chang attended this meeting), Michael G. Gureckas, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Alexia Teran, John B. Troost, and Sheila Wright. 1st and 2nd Vice Presidents, Janet A. Neal and Harley D. Rubenstein, and Commissioner Wendy L. Welt were not present.

Following roll call, President Weller welcomed and introduced Commissioner Maria Mustelier-Parrish, the newest Commissioner appointed by Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, 2nd District, on December 18, 2007.

Commissioner Mustelier-Parrish added that she is the mother of a 19-year-old adult with multiple disabilities, and as a result, became involved in disability issues. She has been involved in helping people with disability issues and has worked with the Westside Regional Center and Family Resource Centers.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2007, MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Gurekas, seconded by Commissioner Troost, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of December 19, 2007, were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Turner, representing the *Disability Rights Legal Center*, shared correspondence and reported that the Respect-ABILITY Coalition will hold its 2008 Respect-ABILITY Conference on March 7 & 8, 2008, at the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel. This Conference will host many organizations that will come together to discuss, share, and educate people with disabilities on emerging disability issues, strategies, and advocacy tools. These tools can help people with disabilities protect their rights and make positive changes in their community.

The two-day Conference's main focus is to identify and share effective strategies and best practice models to achieve disability rights. Information about the conference may be obtained at www.respectabilitycoalition.org. Information in alternate formats including: Spanish, Korean, Chinese, Braille, and large font is available.

Mr. Turner further added that the Respect-ABILITY Coalition is conducting a health care survey, and plans to share the preliminary results of the survey at the Conference. He encouraged everyone's attendance at the Conference and asked for everyone's participation in the survey.

Ms. Phyllis Cotto, member of the Los Angeles County Client Coalition, reported that she currently has a problem with her landlord about keys to her apartment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weller reported on the status of her new assignment as a teacher's assistant with the *Pathway Program*, a new program offered through UCLA's Extension Program. She added that this program is essential for students with developmental disabilities because it teaches them the basic elements of government, the importance of voting, and how to exercise government for disability advocacy. She further added that she would like the Commission to write a letter of recommendation/support to present at her new assignment.

(Commissioners Chambers and Rubenstein joined the meeting.)

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Teran, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to write a letter of recommendation/support for President Weller's new assignment as a teacher's assistant at *UCLA's Pathway Program*.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following

- As a result of a Board Directive, all County Commissioners are mandated to attend a Sexual Harassment Prevention and Cultural Diversity Training. The Commission is scheduled for February 20, 2008, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.
- The *Access to Resources for People with Disabilities* booklet is not available at this time, but will be available for distribution when the Commission receives approval from the Board.
- The Commissioners' biographies on the Commission's website have been updated to reflect the Commission's new Officers. Ms. Osuna encouraged Commissioners who have not submitted their biographies to do so.

(1st Vice President Neal and Commissioner Pomerantz joined the meeting)

PRESENTATION BY MR. RAY ITANI, DISTRICT ENGINEER/OFFICE MANAGER, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BUILDING & SAFETY DIVISION ON ADA VIOLATIONS

Mr. Ray Itani, District Engineer/Office Manager, representing the Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division, provided the Commission and the community at large with a PowerPoint presentation titled, "California Title-24 Chapter 11B Division IV – Accessibility for Existing Building Section 1134B." The Building and Safety Division provides service to the public by verifying safe building design and construction through the enforcement of building codes and standards. Mr. Itani highlighted on the processes and regulations relating to accessibility issues pursuant to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the role the Department of Public Works plays in relation to monitoring accessibility and compliance in County Buildings and private entities within its jurisdiction.

Mr. Moreno added that the Department of Public Works, Building and Safety Division has 13 District Offices throughout the County servicing the area from the Antelope Valley to Calabasas to San Bernardino. Individuals wishing to report an ADA violation may log onto <http://dpw.lacounty.gov/bsd/rav/>, or contact the Building and Safety Headquarters at:

TELEPHONE

- Building Section: (626) 458-3173
- Property Rehabilitation/Code Enforcement Section: (626) 458-3193
- Drainage and Grading Section: (626) 458-6390
- Electrical Section: (626) 458-3180
- Mechanical Section: (626) 458-3182
- Plumbing Section: (626) 458-3182

VISIT

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Building and Safety Division
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

MAIL REQUESTS

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
Building and Safety Division
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-2460

Following a question and answer forum, President Weller thanked Mr. Itani for providing the Commission and community at large with essential information on compliance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

None.

Public Relations Committee

Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM

None.

Community Service

None.

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

ASI Report – Teddie-Joy Remhild

Ms. Teddie-Joy Remhild was unable to attend the Commission meeting this month. However, President Weller told Commissioners that Commission Staff forwarded a status report from Ms. Remhild to the Commissioners, before this meeting, by e-mail and U.S mail.

REPORT OF KURT HAGAN, DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr. Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, Disability Rights Section, reported the following:

- The Office of Affirmative Action Compliance (OAAC) conducted ADA compliance audits in County Departments in 2001. The U.S. Department of Justice consequently advised the OAAC that the County met all ADA requirements. Today, OAAC wants to update all the ADA transition plans and self-evaluation plans for all County Departments. This month OAAC met with the Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Community and Senior Services, Sheriff, Public Library, and have made significant progress with ADA compliance audits.
- OAAC has developed new software that County Departments can use to track their Transition Plans. This formal software will be rolled out to all County Departments in the near future.
- OAAC is trying to get ADA Extraordinary Maintenance Funds allocated this month, to departments that face ADA deficiencies'
- Mr. Dennis Tafoya, Director of the Office of Affirmative Action Compliance, is sending out correspondence to all Department Heads notifying them that updates to their Department's ADA Transition Plans and Self-Evaluation Plans for all County Departments is a 2-year project to be completed by June 2009.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by 1st Vice President Neal, and unanimously carried, President Weller adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Kecia B. Weller, President
Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2nd Vice President
Mary Chambers
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Bernard Siegel
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Sheila Wright
Steven Thompson

Unexcused Absence

Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors

Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Access Services, Inc.

Richard Martindale-Essington

Los Angeles County Departments

Gordon Anthony, Deputy OAAC
Marty Moreno, Dept. of Public Works
Roy Itani, Dept. of Public Works

Guests

Sandy Eisenberg, Total Recall
John Longonin, Disability Rights Legal Center
Eric Turner, Disability Rights Legal Center
Magda Carrero, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Jesse Padilla, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center
Ray Louis McKeever, SCADB
Phyllis Cotto, Los Angeles County Client Coalition
Carl Swirkal
Marvin White